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21 February 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda items 33, 35 and 85
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Identical letters dated 21 February 1997 from the Permanent
Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security
Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Arab States members of the League of Arab States, I wish once again to inform you, on behalf of the Group, of its great concern at the attitude of Israel, the occupying Power, which, persisting in its policy, continues to take illegal measures against the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, as well as the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, inter alia by continuing with the construction of settlements. These actions, which constitute a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Hague Rules of 1907, as well as of the many resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly, seriously endanger the peace process in the Middle East and the integrity of the accords concluded in that respect between the parties.

The Arab Group wishes in particular to draw attention to the policies and illegal measures taken by Israel in occupied East Jerusalem, aimed at Judaizing the city and changing its legal status and demographic composition. Jerusalem is of vital importance to the Arab world and the world of Islam, and is also important to the international community and the three major religions. Thus, Israel's policies and actions in Jerusalem are extremely dangerous. In this connection, the Israeli authorities have confirmed their decision to build a new



settlement to the south of East Jerusalem, specifically in the Jabal abu Ghneim region. This action is a sequel to a series of decisions taken by Israel, such as the decision to build a new settlement in the Ras al-Amud region, within the original frontiers of the municipality of East Jerusalem. In this connection, I wish to refer to the letter from the Chairman of the Group of Arab States for December 1996, which deals with the same subject (document S/1996/1047 of 17 December 1996). In addition, the Israeli authorities have kept open the tunnel located within the Haram al-Sharif, Security Council resolution 1073 (1996) on this subject notwithstanding. I would also recall that Israel has destroyed the building belonging to the Burj al-Laqlaq association, located within the Old City, where it would appear that a new Jewish settlement is to be constructed. Furthermore, Israel is continuing to deprive the Palestinian inhabitants of Jerusalem, who are the original inhabitants of the city, of their "right of residence", in the context of what appears to be an underhand campaign aimed at driving the Palestinian Arab inhabitants out of Jerusalem. Furthermore, Israel is continuing to isolate East Jerusalem from the other regions of Transjordan and to deny access to it by Palestinians, despite everything the city represents for the Palestinian people in religious, cultural, intellectual and economic terms.

The international community, including the Security Council, has taken a very firm attitude towards the above-mentioned policies and actions, which it has described as null and void, calling on Israel to put an end to them. The Group of Arab States Members of the United Nations wishes to insist on the vital importance of the issue, and requests the Security Council to take the necessary steps to induce Israel, the occupying Power, to put an end to its policies and actions, and in particular definitively to renounce any settlement activity, particularly in the Jabal abu Ghneim and Ras al-Amud region. The Group of Arab States wishes to reaffirm that any failure in this area risks having serious consequences and disastrous sequels.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 33, 35 and 85 of the agenda for the fifty-first session, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations



Security Council

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S/1997/150
21 February 1997
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ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 21 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND KAZAKSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit the text of the Russian-Kazak statement on Tajikistan, adopted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, E. M. Primakov, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakstan, K. K. Tokaev, in Moscow on 19 February 1997 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. ARISTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the United Nations



Annex

Russian-Kazak Statement on Tajikistan of 19 February 1997

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, E. M. Primakov and K. K. Tokaev, in the course of discussions in Moscow on 19 February 1997, exchanged views on the situation in and around Tajikistan and on the prospects for a political settlement of the Tajik conflict.

The common approach of the two countries to issues relating to Tajikistan was confirmed. The Ministers emphasized their conviction that peace, stability and civil accord in Tajikistan can be restored only by political means, through dialogue between the parties on the basis of compromise and mutual concessions.

In this context, the Ministers welcomed the results of the meeting in Moscow between the President of Tajikistan, E. S. Rakhmonov, and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, A. Nuri. They consider that the Moscow agreements open up a real possibility of achieving national reconciliation in Tajikistan. It is important that these decisions should subsequently be fully implemented by both sides in Tajikistan.

The Ministers expressed the readiness of their countries to continue to promote in all possible ways the continuation of the inter-Tajik negotiating process under the auspices of the United Nations. They expect the delegations of the Tajik parties to use the forthcoming round of inter-Tajik talks in Moscow to work intensively on resolving the concrete aspects of a settlement specified in the documents of the Moscow meeting.

The heads of the foreign policy departments of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan noted the importance of the efforts being made by the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the States concerned, above all the States of the region, to promote a political settlement of the Tajik conflict, and called for active cooperation with them in that direction.

The Ministers emphasized the urgency of cooperation between the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States within the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth in Tajikistan and of joint measures to protect the Tajik-Afghan border.

The readiness of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan to continue economic and humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan and to expand all-round cooperation with it on a bilateral basis and within the Commonwealth of Independent States was confirmed.



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ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 21 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND KAZAKSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit the text of the joint Russian-Kazak statement on Afghanistan, adopted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, E. M. Primakov, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakstan, K. K. Tokaev, in Moscow on 19 February 1997 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. ARISTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the United Nations



Annex

Joint Russian-Kazak Statement on Afghanistan of 19 February 1997

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Kazakstan, E. M. Primakov and K. K. Tokaev, in the course of discussions which took place in Moscow on 19 February 1997, exchanged views on the course of events in Afghanistan and the prospects for a peaceful settlement of the inter-Afghan conflict.

Serious concern was expressed at the continuing armed conflict in Afghanistan and the attempts of the Taliban movement to resolve the issue of power in the country in its favour by military means.

Particular concern was felt at the fact that, as a result of the military action, the civilian population is suffering and the number of refugees is on the increase. The incidents of serious violation of human rights, of persecution on political and ethnic grounds, and of violation of the norms of international law, including actions that prevent the normal performance of the work of the United Nations in Afghanistan, merit condemnation.

The Russian Federation and Kazakstan call on the parties to the conflict in Afghanistan to halt military action immediately and to begin the search for ways of reaching agreement for the purpose of restoring civil peace. In so doing, the legitimate interests of all ethnic and religious groups and regions must be taken into account. None of the Afghan military-political groupings must impose its dominating role on the others.

Having called for the cessation of outside interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, the Ministers underlined that a necessary condition for the settlement of the conflict must be the maintenance of the State independence and territorial integrity of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Having noted the positive significance of the meeting of the Russian, Kazak, Kyrgyz, Uzbek and Tajik leaders held in Almaty on 4 October 1996, the decisions of which were reflected in Security Council resolution 1076 (1996) of 22 October 1996, on Afghanistan, the Ministers called for the expansion of cooperation and for an intensification of the collective efforts of the Russian Federation and the Central Asian countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, both within the framework of the Almaty meeting and on a bilateral basis, to neutralize the negative impact of the continuing conflict in Afghanistan and to secure the common interests of our countries in the region. In so doing, concern was expressed at the fact that to date the politically significant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly on Afghanistan have not begun to be implemented.

Agreement was reached to continue the exchange of views and the consultations between the Russian Federation and Kazakstan on the Afghan problem and on an intensification of the joint efforts of our countries aimed at implementing the United Nations decisions.



Security Council

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S/1997/152
24 February 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) (i) OF
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the Executive Chairman, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the joint statement signed by the Executive Chairman and Mr. Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, during the Chairman's visit to Baghdad from 20 to 23 February. The joint statement reflects, inter alia, the Government of Iraq's acceptance of the removal of the destroyed missile engines out of Iraq for expert examination abroad in line with the statement of the President of the Council of 30 December 1996 (S/PRST/1996/49).

The Executive Chairman stands ready to provide a more detailed oral briefing to the members of the Council, should they so desire, following his return to the office on Monday, 3 March.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Council.

(Signed) Charles DUEFLER
Officer-in-Charge
Deputy Executive Chairman



Annex

Joint statement dated 23 February 1997

Pursuant to the Joint Programme of Action of 22 June 1996, a bimonthly meeting between the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq and the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission was held in Baghdad from 20 to 23 February 1997. The meeting resulted in the following:

As a follow-up to the December 1996 discussions in the missile field, the Government of Iraq presented explanations on issues of concern which had been raised by the Special Commission on that occasion. This enabled further progress to be achieved regarding the accounting of proscribed long-range missiles.

The Government of Iraq agreed to the removal of remnants of proscribed missile engines from Iraq for in-depth technical analysis by the Commission. The analysis will be carried out with the assistance of a team of international experts, under the supervision of the Commission, at laboratories offered by contributing Governments. Before the removal, some of the missile components would be examined in Iraq to collect additional data relevant to the accounting of proscribed missiles. It was agreed that the Commission will communicate to the Government of Iraq the findings of the analysis as they become available and that the Commission's conclusions thereon will not be reported or made public without consultations with the Government of Iraq.

Following the methodology used for the December 1996 missile discussions, the Government of Iraq and the Commission started a detailed review of the chemical weapons area at the high political level. The Commission presented its concerns on outstanding issues in this field. In-depth technical discussions were held between the experts of both sides. The Government of Iraq undertook to continue addressing the Commission's concerns and to that effect it was agreed to carry out joint intensive work. In this context, a follow-up technical level meeting will be held in mid-March.

The two sides reiterated their commitments to the Joint Programme of Action. The February talks were carried out in a constructive and professional manner, aimed at closing the proscribed weapons related file as defined in section C of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Executive Chairman agreed to meet in Baghdad during the first week of April 1997.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Republic of Iraq

(Signed) Rolf EKEUS
Executive Chairman
of the Special Commission
